

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"/Torture/Legal Concern

21 October 1982

EL SALVADOR: Mauricio DOMENECH (or DOMINIQUE)

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Mauricio Domenech (or Dominique) was reportedly detained by members of the Salvadorian security forces in San Salvador on the afternoon of 19 October 1982. His present whereabouts are unknown, and his detention has not been acknowledged. Amnesty International is seriously concerned about his safety.

Mauricio Domenech (or Dominique) is aged 40, married, and a director of CELCO, a business company. He is a graduate in political science. He is a member of the executive committee of the *Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario* (MNR), National Revolutionary Movement, a social democratic political party that is affiliated to the Socialist International and remains legal in El Salvador.

Background

Amnesty International has been following the human rights situation in El Salvador closely for a number of years, and has concluded that the security forces have been regularly involved in a systematic and widespread program of torture, "disappearance", and individual and mass killings of men, women and children. The victims have included not only people suspected of opposition to the authorities, but thousands who were simply resident in areas targeted for security operations, whose murder or mutilation seems to have been completely arbitrary. Victims of arbitrary detention, "disappearance" and murder have included priests, trade unionists, church workers, human rights activists, teachers, academics, peasant families, community workers and medical personnel, as well as patients abducted from their sickbeds or murdered in hospital by security agents.

Following the elections for a constituent assembly held on 28 March 1982, reports of human rights violations involving the official security forces have continued unabated. The violations are occurring in a context of continued conflict between the government and opposition forces, but reports received by AI indicate that non-combatants from all sectors of Salvadorian society continue to be victims of such violations, including arbitrary detention, "disappearance", and extrajudicial execution at the hands of the official military and police services, who act on occasion in conjunction with clandestine paramilitary squads who have their explicit or implicit warrant. As in previous years, in no single instance since the elections have the Salvadorian authorities issued a satisfactory response to enquiries about these violations.

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Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners without reservation*.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters/letters expressing concern about reports of the abduction of Mauricio Domenech (or Dominique) and urging that he be humanely treated while in detention. Request clarification of his whereabouts and legal situation and urge that he be charged or immediately released.

APPEALS TO:

Sr. Alvaro Magaña Borja
Presidente de la República
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

*Telegrams to: Presidente Magana,
San Salvador, El Salvador*

General José Guillermo García
Ministro de Defensa y Seguridad Pública
Ministerio de Defensa y Seguridad Pública
Casa Presidencial
San Salvador, El Salvador

*Telegrams to: Gen. García, Ministerio Defensa
y Seguridad Pública, San Salvador, El Salvador*

COPIES TO:

Dr Fidel Chávez Mena
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Calle Santa Tecla
San Salvador, El Salvador
(Minister of Foreign Affairs)

Oficina de Tutela Legal del Arzobispado
Comisión Arquidiocesano de Justicia y Paz
Apdo. 2253
San Salvador, El Salvador
*(a new group working with the archbishopric of
San Salvador on human rights-related questions)*

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 2 December 1982.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity are often more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new information.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your national section Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.